IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE, ANDHRA PRADESH
AT HYDERABAD
(Special Original Jurisdiction)
THURSDAY, THE SEVENTEENTH DAY OF JUNE
TWO THOUSAND AND FOUR
PRESENT
THE HON'BLE MR JUSTICE N.V. RAMANA
WRIT PETITION NO : 9728 of 2004

Between:
Syed Shakeel Ahmed Razvi Late Syed Mohd Ali Razvi
R/o. H.No.58, A Class Azampura, Hyderabad.

..... PETITIONER

AND

1 the Secretary Ministry of Home Affairs
Government of India, New Delhi.
2 The Regional Passport Officer, Hyderabad, Near Prasanth Theatre, Secunderabad.

.....RESPONDENTS

Petition under Article 226 of the constitution of India praying that in the circumstances stated in the Affidavit filed herein the High Court will be pleased to to issue an order direction or writ particularly one in the nature of writ of Mandamus or any other appropriate writ declaring the action of the respondent in not correcting the date of birth inthe pass port of the petitioner as illegal arbitrary and unjust and consequently direct the respondent to correct the date of birth of the petitioner in the passport as 1-1-1959 instead of 1-1-1956 and pass such other order or orders in the interest of justice.

For the Petitioner:MR.B.SHIVA KUMAR

For the Respondent No.: Smt.A.P.Lakshmi, (Addl. SC FOR CG)

The Court at the admission stage made the following :

O R D E R:

Heard the learned counsel for the petitioner and the learned Standing Counsel for the Central Government for the respondent-Passport Authority.

It is the case of the petitioner that his actual date of birth is 1-1-1959, but in the Passport issued to him by the respondent, his date of birth is wrongly mentioned as 1-1-1956, and that though he represented to the respondent, to alter his date of birth in the Passport and issue fresh passport, the respondent is refusing to entertain the application on the ground that they have no power to make correction of date of birth in the Passport. The petitioner, therefore, filed the present writ petition praying to direct the respondent to entertain his application for correction of date of birth and issue fresh Passport.

It is required to notice that there is no provision under the Passports Act, 1967, which empowers the Regional Passport Officer to correct entries in the Passport. However, pursuant to the judgment of the High Court of Judicature at Bombay, in W.P.
No. 1072 of 2000, the Government of India issued instructions/clarifications in Circular dated 18-4-2001, which are to the following effect:

(a) Where an applicant is seeking rectification/correction of a mistake in the entry on date of birth/place of birth in the passport, PIA (Passport Issuing Authority) may after verifying/satisfying himself, effect the correction treating the same as a technical correction. There is no need for a declaratory order in such cases.

(b) Where a competent authority issuing a birth certificate or an educational board registering a date of birth along with place of birth as valid were to issue any correction or amendment, PIA may effect the necessary amendment in the passport without insisting on a Court Order. As per the provisions of Section 21 of the General Clauses Act, 1997, a competent authority issuing a certificate could also make necessary amendments to the same.

(c) Where the initial entry has been made on the basis of a supportive document issued by one competent authority i.e., school/educational authority and the applicant subsequently requests for a change on the basis of a certificate issued by another competent authority i.e., municipal authorities resulting in conflicting sources of valid proof, the PIA should direct the applicant to obtain a civil order from a competent court of jurisdiction, certifying the valid date of birth/place of birth.

As of today, if any request for correction of date of birth in the Passport is made, the Passport Issuing Authority is required to follow the aforementioned instructions. In that view of the matter, I deem it appropriate to dispose of the writ petition with the following directions:

The respondent is directed to receive the application of the petitioner for correction of date of birth in the Passport/issuance of fresh Passport, and process the same after verifying the genuineness or otherwise thereof basing on the documents the petitioner may file in support of his case for change of date of birth, in the light of the aforementioned guidelines, and pass appropriate orders.

With the above directions, the writ petition is disposed of. No costs.

Date: June 17, 2004.
KSR

.ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

To

1. The Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India, New Delhi.
2. The Regional Pass Port Officer, near Prasanth theatre, Secunderabad.
3. 2 CD copies.